

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 205866

20

ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 L-03 H-02 ACDA-05 OES-03

SAM-01 SAJ-01 /066 R

DRAFTED BY EA/PHL:ASWIFT:JAK

APPROVED BY EA:PCHABIB

EA/PHL:BAFLECK

OASD/ISA:RADM W.J. CROWE

OASD/ISA/FMRA:PEBARRINGER

PM:JSCOTT

----- 130158

P 290009Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

JCS WASHDC

DOD WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 205866

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, RP

SUBJECT: PHIL BASES: MELCHOR'S CALL ON SECDEF

REFS: A. SEOUL 6651 B. MANILA 12020

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

FOR AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN

1. WE ARE EXTREMELY CONCERNED BY POINTS RAISED BY MELCHOR  
DURING HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARY SCHLESINGER (REF A).

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PAGE 02 STATE 205866

YOU SHOULD THEREFORE SEEK AN APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT

MARCOS AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY TO CLARIFY MELCHOR'S STATEMENTS AND MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS.

2. INVOCATION OF ARTICLE III OF MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY. WE HOPE THAT MARCOS WILL NOT INVOKE ARTICLE III OF THE MDT AND CALL FOR CONSULTATIONS ON THE MINDANAO INSURGENCY. THE WORDS OF THE TREATY REFER TO AN EXTERNAL "ARMED ATTACK". WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THAT TUN MUSTAFA AND THE LIBYANS MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN FINANCIAL AND MATERIEL SUPPORT TO THE MUSLIM INSURGENCY, THERE IS GREAT QUESTION IN OUR MINDS IF THIS COULD, BY ANY STRETCH OF THE IMAGINATION, BE CONSIDERED A THREAT OF AN EXTERNAL ARMED ATTACK. IN ANY CASE, INVOCATION OF ARTICLE III WOULD RAISE THE QUESTION OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN A DOMESTIC INSURGENCY AT A TIME WHEN THE

U.S. PUBLIC AND CONGRESS ARE STILL RECOVERING FROM THE TRAUMA OF VIETNAM. THIS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY LEAD TO A MUCH CLOSER SCRUTINY OF OUR PHILIPPINE MAP PROGRAM IN CONGRESS AND MIGHT ACTUALLY CURTAIL RATHER THAN ENHANCE OUR ABILITY TO SUPPLY MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO THE PHILIPPINE ARMED FORCES. IN ADDITION, IT SEEMS PARADOXICAL TO US, THAT AT A TIME WHEN THE PHILIPPINES IS TRYING TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH ITS ASIAN NEIGHBORS AND FOSTER AN IMAGE OF GREATER INDEPENDENCE, THAT IT WOULD EVEN CONSIDER CALLING IN SUCH A FORMALIZED FASHION FOR US AID IN WHAT IS BASICALLY AN INTERNAL INSURGENCY. WE ARE ALSO PUZZLED BY THE TIMING OF MELCHOR'S REQUEST, AS IT HAS APPEARED RECENTLY THAT THE GOP, THROUGH ITS ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND NEGOTIATING INITIATIVES, MIGHT BE MAKING SOME HEADWAY ON FINDING A SETTLEMENT TO THE MINDANAO PROBLEM.

3. PHILIPPINE PLAN FOR RESTRUCTURING THE BASES -- WE WILL, OF COURSE, BE GLAD TO LOOK AT MELCHOR'S PLAN ON THE BASES BUT WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THIS DOCUMENT AND WHETHER WE ARE TO CONSIDER IT PART OF THE FORMAL PHILIPPINE NEGOTIATING POSITION.

4. IF YOU WISH, YOU MIGHT MAKE THE POINT DISCREETLY TO MARCOS THAT WHILE MELCHOR HAS ASSURED US WE SHOULD NOT BE BOTHERED BY WHAT APPEARS IN PHILIPPINE NEWSPAPERS, IT AT CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 205866

TIMES BECOMES VERY DIFFICULT FOR WASHINGTON (BOTH EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE) TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN WHAT WE ARE TOLD PRIVATELY, WHAT IS SAID IN PUBLIC SPEECHES TO THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS, AND WHAT APPEARS IN THE MANILA PRESS, WHICH IS KNOWN TO BE CONTROLLED BY THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT.

5. YOUR MANILA 12020 JUST RECEIVED. WE ARE IN COMPLETE

AGREEMENT WITH YOUR VIEWS IN PARAGRAPHS 3 - 5, AND  
BELIEVE YOU SHOULD SEEK CONSULTATION WITH MARCOS AS  
OUTLINED ABOVE. HOPE TO HAVE YOUR REPORT BEFORE MELCHOR  
APPOINTMENTS WITH ELLSWORTH AND HABIB.

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** MANILA  
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